

## Message Text

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R 210740Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7515

INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS GABORONE 0087

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AIO, BC

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ON ANGOLA

FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ARTICLE IN JANUARY 20 ISSUE OF GOVERNMENT-PUBLISHED BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS, HEADLINED QUOTE MOGWE DEFINES BOTSWANA POLICY ON ANGOLA END QUOTE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: QUOTE INNER QUOTE WITH ANGOLA IN A STATE OF POLITICAL FLUX BOTSWANA HAS WITHHELD THE RECOGNITION OF ANY ONE LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN THAT COUNTRY, AS IN OUR VIEW, NONE CRITERIA OF AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT WITH DEFINED TERRITORY AND A STABLE POPULATION END INNER QUOTE. THIS WAS SAID BY MR. ARCHIE MOGWE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AFTER HIS ARRIVAL FROM THE RECENT OAU SUMMIT ON ANGOLA.

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EM BOTSWANA IS NOT CONVINCED, HE SAID, THAT PREMATURE AND

PARTISAN RECOGNITION OF ANY PARTICULAR MOVEMENT WILL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF ANGOLA AS A WHOLE.

4. BOTSWANA WAS AMONG THE 22 AFRICAN STATES WHICH CALLED FOR A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY AT THE RECENT EXTRA-ORDINARY SUMMIT MEETING OF HEADS OF STATE OF THE ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU).

5. BOTSWANA'S STRATEGY ON ANGOLA, MR. MOGWE ELABORATED, IS BASED ON THE OAU CHARTER WHICH HE SAID HAD FASHIONED OUR DECLARATIONS AND PRONOUNCEMENTS AND DETERMINED OUR ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS IN THE PAST. THE MINISTER WARNED THAT INNER QUOTE IF WE SHOULD CHANGE OUR DIRECTION NOW WE SHALL BE CREATING A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT AND UNDERMINING OUR OWN SOLIDARITY IN THE DIVISION OF THE PEOPLE OF ANGOLA END INNER QUOTE.

6. BOTSWANA CONDEMNS ALL FOREIGN POWERS INTERFERING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANGOLA AND CALLS UPON THEM TO CEASE SUCH INTERFERENCE IF THAT COUNTRY IS NOT TO BECOME THE COCK-PILOT OF OUR CONTINENT WITH DIRE CONSEQUENCES FOR AFRICA IN GENERAL AND COUNTRIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IN PARTICULAR, HE SAID.

7. INNER QUOTE WE STAND FOR A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY AND FOR DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS END INNER QUOTE HE STATED.

8. TURNING TO BIG POWERS THE MINISTER SAID THAT BOTSWANA APPRECIATED AND ACKNOWLEDGED WITH GRATITUDE THE ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS DURING THEIR STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE BY FOREIGN POWERS.

9. BUT, HE SAID INNER QUOTE WE SHALL SUSPECT THEIR MOTIVES IF THEY SHOULD NOW ARROGATE TO THEMSELVES THE LEGITIMATE NATIONAL RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF ANGOLA AS A WHOLE, THAT OF DECIDING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF THEIR CHOICE AND POLITICAL PATH THEY, AS A NEW STATE WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW END INNER QUOTE.

10. MR. MOGWE STRESSED THAT SOUTH AFRICA CANNOT JUSTIFIABLY CLAIM TO ASSIST ANY LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN ANGOLA AS SHE HAS NEVER BEEN ON THE SIDE OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS ADDING THAT IT WAS ONLY A LITTLE MORE THAN A YEAR WHEN SOUTH AFRICA WAS IN ALLIANCE WITH UNCLASSIFIED

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THE REGIME OF CAETANO AGAINST THE AFRICANS.

11. HE SAID SOUTH AFRICA TODAY CONTINUES TO HOLD THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA IN SUBJUGATION AND REFUSES TO RECOGNISE THEIR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. MILLIONS OF AFRICANS WERE SUFFERING IN SOUTH AFRICA UNDER OPPRESSION BY THAT REGIME HE SAID. HE CALLED FOR THE WITH-

DRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICA IN ANGOLA INNER QUOTE BECAUSE ITS PRESENCE HAS PRECIPITATED THE PREMATURE RECOGNITION OF MPLA BY MANY OAU MEMBER STATES AND EARNED UNITA AND FNLA CONDEMNATION AS COLLABORATORS END INNER QUOTE.

12. ASKED WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WILL RECOGNISE MPLA IF THE PARTY SHOULD FINALLY WIPE OUT THE OTHER MOVEMENTS, THE MINISTER ANSWERED INNER QUOTE WE SHALL CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN WE COME TO IT END INNER QUOTE.

13. HE RECALLED PRESIDENT SIR SERETSE KHAMA S WARNING TO THE THIRD-NON ALIGNED NATIONS CONFERENCE IN LUSAKA ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO WHEN HE SAID INNER QUOTE IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT AFRICAN COUNTRIES SHOULD DEVELOP THEIR OWN EXPERIENCE AND BE RESPONSIVE TO THEIR OWN NEEDS END INNER QUOTE.

14. HE FURTHER SAID THAT THE PROBLEM OF ANGOLA IS COMPLICATED BY THE INORDINATE INTEREST WHICH SUPERPOWERS HAVE SHOWN IN IT TO THE EXTENT THAT BOTH UNITED STATES AND SOVIET UNION SENT EMISSARIES TO SOME AFRICAN CAPITALS BEFORE THE MEETING OF THE OAU. HE ASSURED NEWSMEN THAT CONSULTATIONS WILL CONTINUE AT BILATERAL AND REGIONAL POLITICAL LEVELS. AND INNER QUOTE WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT AFRICA WILL WORK HARD TO BRING PEACE TO ANGOLA END INNER QUOTE.

15. MEANWHILE THE SOUTH AFRICAN WEEKEND NEWSPAPERS REPORTED A SITUATION OF NATIONAL PANIC AND ANXIETY IN SOUTH AFRICA ON THE DEATH OF THEIR SOLDIERS FIGHTING IN ANGOLA. MR. ALLISTER SPARKS A DISTINGUISHED JOURNALIST AND EDITOR OF THE SUNDAY EXPRESS SAID IN AN EDITORIAL INNER QUOTE YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS ARE BEING KILLED IN ACTION AND BEING PARADED AS PRISONERS OF WAR IN FOREIGN CAPITALS. IN PLACE OF THAT HIGH OPTIMIST OF ONLY ONE YEAR AGO, THERE IS NOW A MOOD OF DEEP ANXIETY THROUGHOUT THE LAND END INNER QUOTE.

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16. AS FAR AS BOTSWANA SEES IT, MR. MOGWE SAID, SOUTH AFRICA'S PRESENCE IN ANGOLA CAN ONLY BE MOTIVATED BY A DESIRE TO EXTEND THE INFLUENCE BEYOND HER BORDERS IN AN EFFORT TO FRUSTRATE THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA END QUOTE.  
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